



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

## MINUTES

### CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION May 22, 2008

#### **I CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Bafundo called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

#### **II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **III ROLL CALL**

##### Commissioners Present

Nancy Bafundo, Chair

Tony Boni

Peter Boorman (arrived at 6:34 PM)

Robert Briggaman

Alan Nafis

Mayor Wright

##### Staff Present

Tanya Lane – Town Clerk

John Salomone – Town Manager

Ann Harter – Director of Finance

Dr. Ernest Perlini – Superintendent of Schools

#### **IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none**

#### **V MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting, 5/8/08

Commissioner Boni moved to accept the minutes of the 5/8/08 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nafis. Motion passed 4-0 (Commissioner Bafundo abstained).

#### **VI MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED**

A Board of Education

Several members of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Perlini addressed the Commission with their comments and suggestions relative to the Charter.

Board of Education member Pam Raynock stated that she is interested in the possibility of staggered terms for the Board of Education although she commented that she does not know how the logistics would work. Mrs. Raynock commented that four year terms would be preferable to two year terms due to the learning curve for new members. She stated that the number of people running for the Board should remain at ten with nine elected because if additional candidates are added there is the possibility of a 6-3 party split which would take away the Board's current non-political focus on the children.

Board of Education member Meg Casasanta commented that staggered terms would cause chaos in leadership and majority control. She stated that if someone can demonstrate how staggered terms can properly work she would consider it, but at this point she is not in favor of staggered terms for the Board.

Board of Education member Steve Woods spoke in favor of staggered terms, stating that it should be relatively easy to administer. He stated that the Chair of the Board should be elected every two years so that if there is a change in majority a new Chair can be elected if necessary. Mr. Woods stated that staggered terms would be good for continuity and for the huge learning curve. He stated that having both two and four year terms may be a good way to attract candidates that are looking for both long term and short term commitments. Mr. Woods also spoke about building projects, noting the current \$250,000 cap on building projects that requires a building committee if exceeded. He noted that the number has not been increased since 1992 and requested that it be increased to \$1,000,000. He stated that the Town is held to statutory requirements for building projects and that time is lost with the building committee process. He stated that the oversight for the smaller projects can be done by the Facilities Manager, the Board, or the Town. Mr. Woods stated that while he would like to see the limit increased to \$1,000,000, anything over \$250,000 would be an improvement.

Board of Education member Sharon Braverman stated that it would be a good idea to consider creating a subcommittee of the Board of Education and the Town Council to strengthen the liaison role and to work proactively towards more organized planning and problem solving between the two groups.

Dr. Perlini spoke about the possibility of a budget referendum. He stated concern with the timelines and dates of a referendum and stated that if the Town should go in the direction of a referendum the referendum should be held as early as possible. He stated that the Board is presently able to hire its staff for the new school year in early April, as the budget is usually in place by April 15, which gives the Board authorization to hire its staff. Dr. Perlini stated that seven positions will be hired this year alone. He noted the shortage area list from the CT Department of Education which lists school districts that cannot fill positions in certain areas including special education teachers, physics teachers, speech clinicians, etc. He stated that Newington is able to go out and hire for these positions before districts with budget referendums are able to do so. He stated that there are districts that do not yet have a budget in place, meanwhile Newington has already gone out and signed contracts for new hires for the school district. He encouraged the Commission, should it go in the direction of a budget referendum, to arrange it so that the process is complete as soon as possible, ideally by April 15. He also commented that it is important to pass the budget as early as possible in order to get textbooks and other supply orders out in time for the materials to be ready in the summer for planning purposes or at least by the first day of school.

Board of Education Chair Dan Carson thanked the members of the Commission for their work so far and commented that the Commissioners are acutely aware that any recommendations made will impact the Town for some period to come. He stated that the fact that the Charter has only had a handful of changes since its inception is a testament to the strength of the document. Mr. Carson stated that the Town would be better served with a strong mayor form of government; an idea that deserves further study. He disagreed with past speakers' opinions that those who serve on the Board of Education are not really elected to office (due to the fact that ten candidates run for nine positions). He stated that the nine members of the Board worked very hard to get elected. Mr. Carson stated that he is not in support of staggered terms for Board of Education members and commented that although there may be minor benefits to staggered terms, anyone who runs for the Board has generally done their homework and has been provided agendas and minutes in order to accelerate the learning curve. He commented that as learned in the last election, sometimes voters just want to clean house after years of frustration and start anew with different ideas and objectives, and stated that the voters should not have that right taken away. Mr. Carson stated that any member of the Council or Board should be allowed to apply for reimbursement for any expenses incurred as a result of carrying out their duties. He stated that he would support current

language in the Charter concerning how vacancies in elected offices are handled. He commented that Charter sections 802, 803, 806 should remain intact and unaltered. He noted that section 814, Competitive Bidding, currently states that any services or goods in excess of \$10,000 requires a sealed bid, and stated that the amount should be raised to \$30,000 to account for inflation.

Discussion followed. Commissioner Briggaman inquired whether there are any areas, such as facilities management or procurement, in which having the Board work with the Town to combine costs would create an economy of scale and be beneficial to both sides. Mr. Carson replied that the issue has been visited a few times over the past decade and that there has not been concrete evidence that doing so would be an advantage. He stated that the school district is such a big entity that it needs its own apparatus to go forward in those areas. Dr. Perlini stated that competitive bidding can be done online. He also noted that both the Board of Education and the Town piggyback on State contracts on a regular basis. He stated that it is an area that is always looked at and if it should ever happen that there is a benefit to pull the two sides together then it would make sense to do so. Commissioner Briggaman asked whether the Board has a Facilities Manager position. Mr. Carson replied that there is not such a position by title and that those responsibilities typically fall to the Business Manager, and that the Board does have a Facilities Committee that oversees the Board's buildings. He noted that Mr. Vita is responsible for maintenance of the buildings.

Mayor Wright thanked the Board members and Dr. Perlini for their suggestions. He stated that he has heard a lot of comments regarding staggered terms. He noted that a positive aspect of the Board over the years has been the 5-4 party split and commented that with staggered terms there is the potential for a 6-3 split. He stated that there would be tradeoffs with having staggered terms and stated that he is not necessarily in favor of staggered terms.

B Ann Harter, Director of Finance and John Salomone, Town Manager

Town Manager Salomone stated that he and Ms. Harter are present to talk about suggested language updates to the Charter. Attorney Justin Clark was also called to the table for the discussion. He noted in regards to Mr. Woods' comments that the building committee is not part of the Charter, and a change to the dollar amounts that require a building committee would be addressed with an ordinance change rather than through a Charter change.

Ann Harter, Finance Director, presented a rundown of suggested amendments to the Charter:

- Section 202 - Board of Fire Commissioners: Ms. Harter noted that the phrase "*shall purchase additional apparatus and equipment when duly authorized*" is contradictory to other purchasing sections. Commissioner Bafundo inquired whether fire apparatus purchases go through the Town. Ms. Harter replied in the affirmative. Town Manager Salomone stated that there is generally a subcommittee of fire personnel that works with the Town on the purchase of fire apparatus, but ultimately the financial go-ahead is with the purchasing agent. Commissioner Bafundo asked what change is recommended to that language. Ms. Harter replied that it is recommended that the particular phrase be eliminated, noting that the previous phrase states "*shall recommend purchase*." Town Manager Salomone stated that in reality the Fire Commission recommends purchases.
- Section 407 – Borrowing: Ms. Harter noted that the phrase "*tax anticipation notes*" is likely antiquated.
- Section 408 – Obligatory Referendum and Ordinance: Ms. Harter stated that the dollar limits listed in this section should be doubled to \$250,000 and \$650,000. She stated that these increases would be proportional to the increases in the Town's budget since the last Charter revision. Mayor Wright asked whether these numbers make sense from a bonding standpoint, taking into consideration all of the soft costs involved with bonding. He asked whether it makes financial sense to do bonding at that level. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Town rarely bonds for something as little as \$650,000 due to the costs of the bonding which can be \$50,000 and up. He stated that while the threshold is low and in practicality the Town does not often use it, it does give the Town more leeway with medium capital expenditures, and stated that the proposed increase would be proportionate to the Town's current budget. Ms. Harter stated that she is concerned with the numbers in regards to what the Town can do with special appropriations. Town Manager Salomone suggested that the limits be indexed in the future to

eliminate the need to revisit the item over the next several years. He noted that the key is to use the correct index and to round it to the next thousand or ten-thousand dollars.

- Section 410 - Right of Referendum on Ordinances: Ms. Harter stated that this section should be consistent with the changes to section 408
- Section 414 - Compensation: Town Manager Salomone stated that members of the Town Council are entitled to reasonable and legitimate reimbursement of expenses. He noted that the current language does not include reimbursement for members of the Board of Education. Ms. Harter stated that the language does not specify how the reimbursements are to be authorized. Town Manager Salomone stated that there will need to be a system of checks and balances involved with the authorization.
- Section 609 – Town Treasurer: Ms. Harter stated that the Town Treasurer currently cosigns checks from the Town and the Board of Education, but there are no other official responsibilities for this position and with computer technology the Treasurer no longer manually signs the checks. Mayor Wright asked whether the position of Town Treasurer is mandated by State law. Attorney Clark replied in the affirmative. Mayor Wright inquired whether the Treasurer can be an employee of the Town. Ms. Harter replied in the affirmative but stated that the Treasurer is also responsible for signing Board of Education checks so if the Treasurer is a Town employee it may be a conflict (remainder of comment not audible on tape). Mayor Wright commented that it may not be as simple as eliminating the Treasurer. Town Manager Salomone stated that he is not suggesting eliminating the position, but noted that other towns have designated the Town Manager as the cosigner. Mayor Wright asked if there are any recommendations about which position should take on the responsibility of the Treasurer. Town Manager Salomone stated that it would be something to look at.
- Section 708 – Department of Finance: Ms. Harter stated that the purchasing agent's duties are performed by the Director of Administrative Services under the direction of the Town Manager, not under the direction of the Director of Finance. She stated that while the Director of Finance cosigns purchase orders and looks for the availability of funds, purchase orders are also signed by the purchasing agent. She stated that the purchasing agent may be better defined under its own section. Commissioner Bafundo inquired about how long that arrangement has been in place. Ms. Harter replied that the same change had been requested in 1992, but the change was not made. Town Manager Salomone stated that separating acquisition and approval would be better for financial control purposes.
- Section 708(C) - Revenue Collector: Ms. Harter commented that the requirement that the Revenue Collector be an elector of the Town is outdated. She stated that the position is appointed by the Town Manager, not the Town Council and it is not an elected position. She stated that it does not seem necessary for the Revenue Collector to be required to be a Town resident.

Town Manager Salomone stated that he would be willing to return to a future meeting to discuss the topic of budget referendum. Commissioner Bafundo stated that the topic could be discussed at the current meeting if desired. Town Manager Salomone stated that if the Town decides to go in the direction of a budget referendum then it will be key that the referendum does not impede the ability of the Town to pass a budget on a timely basis. He stated that any amendment to the budget process should take that into consideration. Town Manager Salomone recalled issues with the budget referendum process in the Town of Watertown, where he was the former Town Manager. He stated that there were not good provisions in the Watertown Charter for budget referendum and there were no limits to the number of referendums that could be held. He stated that there are other towns, such as West Hartford, that are structured in such a way that the budget referendum does not put the Town in financial jeopardy. Town Manager Salomone remarked that Dr. Perlini's comments about having the referendum process complete by April 15 may not be realistic, as it would back up the entire budget process quite a bit. He stated that a more realistic time frame would be to have the budget referendum process complete by mid-June at the latest, which would allow time for tax bills to be prepared for distribution on July 1. Town Manager Salomone stated that he is less concerned about quorums for a valid referendum and stated that people come out when there are budget issues. He stated that the structure should be kept simple with a finite date for resolution and there should be a provision for passing the budget in the event that the referendum has not passed at the time of the deadline. He stated that the provisions for passing the budget in such an event would be more of a policy question based on the Council's decision. He stated

that some items would have to be changed such as in section 803, in which the dates would have to be changed to give time to prepare the budget. He cautioned that the budget preparation should not be done too early, as doing so would prevent the Town from getting good estimates and would also prevent the Town from knowing the State's direction on certain budgetary items. He stated that the duties of the Town Council in regards to the budget would change, affecting Charter sections 805 and 806. Mayor Wright asked whether Town Manager Salomone has had any other experience (besides Watertown) with towns that have budget referendums. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative, and stated that although Watertown's process could be volatile, there were never more than two referendums per year during his experience with that town. Commissioner Boorman asked whether Watertown's referendum was mandatory. Town Manager Salomone replied that while Watertown's referendum was by petition it became so routine over the years that it got to the point where the town bypassed the petition, and held the referendum at the Council's request. Commissioner Boorman asked whether Watertown's Council had the authority to do so under its Charter. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Boorman asked how having a budget referendum in Newington would affect potential suitors for the position of Town Manager should it become vacant. Town Manager Salomone replied that it depends on how well the referendum process is crafted. He stated that a well-crafted referendum with little chaos would not be detrimental to potential candidates for the position, but if the process is not well structured it could be a detriment.

Commissioner Nafis noted Dr. Perlini's comments about April 15 being a very important date for a referendum to be passed in order to accommodate the Board's planning for the next school year and inquired as to whether the Town Manager is suggesting in his comments that the Board does not, in fact, need that time. Town Manager Salomone replied that he is not minimizing that important date, but stated that the date is not practical because there will not be time for the Town to do its due diligence on the budget prior to the vote. Commissioner Nafis stated that he understands the time constraints but inquired about whether the process will tie the Board's hands, since it must wait until the budget is passed to do the hiring and planning for the upcoming year. Town Manager Salomone replied that it is a policy issue and it gets down to the philosophical issue as to whether the democratic process of public participation in the budget is more important than hiring teachers in April, and noted that both sides would have to be weighed.

Mayor Wright noted that a petition process takes more time than an automatic referendum, and noted that a petition process could draw out the budget process even further. Town Manager Salomone concurred and stated that there needs to be a reasonable minimum amount of time available to collect signatures for a petition process. Attorney Clark stated that there is also the time issue of absentee ballots which builds time to the process. Mayor Wright stated that if there is value to having the referendum sooner rather than later in essence an automatic referendum would be a more efficient process. Town Manager Salomone stated that a downside to an automatic referendum is that if a budget is so good that a referendum is not needed then having an automatic referendum would be a waste of time and money.

Commissioner Boni asked whether the Board of Education could commit to purchase books and hire teachers in anticipation of the budget passing, knowing that the budget will be in place by July 1. Town Manager Salomone replied that doing so may pose a problem in purchasing and contractual hiring if the budget should change dramatically during the course of the referendum process. Commissioner Bafundo stated that hiring a teacher in a shortage area or replacement for a retiree may be able to be done in anticipation of the budget. She also stated that a surplus in a current budget could be used to purchase supplies, but noted that there is no way to predict what the Board would do with the surplus. Commissioner Boorman asked if there are any legal or accounting issues to committing funds in advance of the budget being in place. Ms. Harter stated that purchases cannot be received prior to being paid for, but the ordering process can begin prior to the funds being in place. Commissioner Boni noted that in private industries it is common practice to order supplies prior to budgets being in place and oftentimes delivery is made prior to the billing for those supplies. Commissioner Boorman stated that these questions should be addressed to the Board of Education and noted that there are likely issues with encumbering and that these issues and limitations are different from those in the private sector. Commissioner Boni stated that it would be worth finding out more information on the topic.

Ms. Harter continued with her suggestions regarding the Charter:

- Section 808 – Transfer of Appropriations: Ms. Harter recommended adding an additional section to clarify transfers within the reserve *for public accounts*. She stated that reserve funds are governed by State statutes which *allows for transfers at any time of the year, not in the last six months, unlike the general fund*. She stated that these appropriations do not lapse at year end and are in existence for several years and commented that it would nice to have that clarification in the Charter so that she could make the transfers at any time of the year. Commissioner Boorman asked what language Ms. Harter would like to see in that area. Ms. Harter replied that she would like to see a separate section dealing with the ability to transfer at any time of the year for capital project funds.
- Section 809 – Effect of Appropriation: Ms. Harter discussed the last sentence of the section, which states “*The Board of Education shall set up its own system of budgetary control....*” She stated that she is not suggesting that the clause be changed, but wanted to bring it to the Commission’s attention if it plans to discuss department combining and control of the Board of Education’s budget. Commissioner Boorman asked what Ms. Harter meant by “control of the Board of Education’s budget.” Ms Harter replied that there are always questions about looking at the Board’s budget and transferring from the Board’s budget. Town Manager Salomone stated that although he is not recommending it at this time there are towns in which the same person serves as both the Finance Director and the Business Manager and stated that he is unsure whether this language will prohibit that from happening should such a change be desirable in the future.
- Sections 811, 812, 813 – Borrowing: Ms. Harter commented that any changes made to borrowing would have to be addressed in these sections as well. (comment not audible on tape).
- Section 814 – Competitive Bidding: Ms. Harter suggested that the limit of \$10,000 be doubled to \$20,000 in order to make the limit proportionate to the increase in the Town’s budget since 1992. She remarked that Town Manager Salomone would like to raise the limit to \$25,000 and the Board would like to raise the limit to \$30,000 and commented that everyone would like to see the limit increased.
- Section 816 – Payment of Claims: Ms. Harter noted that this section makes reference to the Town Treasurer and makes reference to who is supposed to cosign checks.
- Section 818 – Official Bonds: Ms. Harter noted that she is not sure who the *agent of the town deposit fund* is and requested legal opinion. Town Manager Salomone stated that it is old language and somewhat ambiguous.
- Section 905 – Retirement: Town Manager Salomone stated that language in the section which states “*elect to participate in the Connecticut Municipal Employee’s Retirement Fund*” gives the Town the flexibility to enter into that retirement fund if so desired. He stated that the Town is actually going in the other direction and the newer contracts are defined contribution plans. He stated that there is no reason to have that permissive language in the Charter without intent to use it. Commissioner Bafundo asked whether the fund mentioned in the Charter still exists. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative.

## VII ANY OTHER BUSINESS PERTINENT TO THIS COMMISSION

Mayor Wright requested a timeline of the Charter revision process and inquired about the importance of the April 2009 deadline as it relates to State Statutes. Attorney Clark outlined the process, as governed by Chapter 99 of the Connecticut General Statutes:

- Once the Town Council has passed a resolution forming a Charter Revision Commission and appointing the appropriate number of Commissioners, the Commission must submit its draft report to the Council no later than sixteen months from the date of the appointment of its members, or no later than the time frame established by the Council that does not exceed the sixteen month deadline set by statute. This provision does not prevent the Commission from finishing its work prior to the deadline. Newington’s Town Council gave the Commission a sixteen month deadline, which will occur in April 2009.
- Pursuant to the statute the Commission must hold two public hearings. One of the public hearings must be prior to the beginning of any substantive work to the Charter; this public hearing was held in January 2008. One public hearing must be held after the draft report to the Town Council has been completed but not yet submitted to the Council. The Commission can also hold as many additional public hearings as it wishes. Commissioner Bafundo asked whether the

second public hearing must be held prior to the April 2009 deadline. Attorney Clark replied in the affirmative.

- After the second required public hearing (once the draft report to the Council has been completed but not submitted to the Council) the Commission may hold more discussion if needed and then must submit the draft report, including any proposed Charter amendments, to the Town Clerk who will then transmit the report to the Council for consideration.
- After receiving the report from the Town Clerk the Town Council itself must hold at least one public hearing on the draft report. The Council may make any recommendations it deems desirable to the Commission within fifteen days of the Council's last public hearing on the draft report. If the Council makes no recommendations to the Commission within that fifteen day period the report of the Commission then becomes final and the Council then votes on the report and the Commission no longer exists. If the Council does make recommended changes to the draft report the Commission must confer with the Town Council concerning those recommendations and may amend any of the provisions of the proposed Charter or Charter amendments in accordance with those recommendations or reject those recommendations. In either case, the report will then be submitted to the Council as its final report and the Commission's job is done. This all must happen prior to the deadline.

Mayor Wright asked whether there is any penalty if the Commission finishes its work prior to the deadline. Attorney Clark replied in the negative. Commissioner Briggaman inquired as to whether the public vote is required to occur prior to the April 2009 deadline. Attorney Clark replied in the negative, and noted that only the Commission's work must end by the deadline and that there is a different set of deadlines for the Council's work in respect to the report. Commissioner Boni asked whether the deadline is April 1 or April 30. Attorney Clark replied that the deadline is in line with the date of appointment; since the Commission was formed on December 16, 2007 the deadline will be April 16, 2009.

Mayor Wright noted discussion among the public that the Commission is required by State Statute to review every sentence and every word throughout the Charter and asked whether this is the case. Attorney Clark replied that the Commission is only required to report on each recommendation listed in its charge by the Council. Commissioner Boorman stated that the Commissioners are free to review any portion of the Charter it chooses, including a line by line review if desired. Attorney Clark concurred and stated that there are very few restrictions on what the Commission can and can't look at.

Commissioner Boorman distributed a copy of a May 9, 2008 article in the Hartford Courant entitled "Has the Town Meeting Outlived its Value?" and commented that the article is timely given recent discussions. He recommended that the Commissioners read the article and discuss at the next meeting if desired.

Commissioner Bafundo commented that she spoke to Ms. Lane about scheduling, and noted that there are still a few more groupings of speakers to come before the Commission. She stated that the next agenda will hopefully include Police Chief Mulhall and the Constables. She stated that remaining groupings include the TPZ, Development Commission, ZBA, Zoning Enforcement, Town Engineer, Conservation, Tax Collector, Human Services, Safety Committee, Human Rights, IT, Highway Department, Facilities Manager, Board of Tax Review and Assessor. She stated that the presentations should be wrapped up within the next few meetings. She noted that the Commission is still waiting for information from the Fire Commission, including a consultant's report. Commissioner Boorman stated that the Commission is still awaiting information from both the Fire Chief and the Fire Commission, and stated that the Commission did receive a study from a couple of years ago regarding those recommendations. Commissioner Bafundo stated that she has not received a copy of the study and requested to receive a copy. Commissioner Boorman requested that Ms. Lane follow up with Chief Schroeder and members of the Fire Commission in regards to providing the requested information, specifically in the issues and recommendations regarding the Fire Commission. Commissioner Bafundo remarked that she is looking for concrete data to support making changes to the Charter language in regards to the Fire Commission. She also requested to see as many of the remaining groups come in to speak to the Commission soon so that the Commission can move forward with working on the actual Charter language. Commissioner Boorman inquired as to whether Ms. Lane has spoken to Ms. Amodeo about scheduling. Ms. Lane replied that she spoke to Ms. Amodeo and was able to coordinate her schedule accordingly. Mayor Wright inquired as to whether there is anything that would prevent the Commission from being able to work on changing proposed language on different sections of the Charter

at this point. Attorney Clark replied that the Commission can be governed by any rules its sets. He stated that any proposed change can be voted on as the Commission goes along and then incorporated into the draft report. Mayor Wright asked whether anything will prevent any changes from being altered again at some point in the process. Attorney Clark replied in the negative. Mayor Wright stated that it would be a benefit to the Commission to start working on non-controversial language changes in the near future. Commissioner Boorman noted that the legal counsel has already prepared a draft of some language changes. He requested that at a future meeting Attorney Clark explain the progress and clarify the key of the changes in the document. Commissioner Bafundo suggested that this is done at the next meeting if possible. Mayor Wright stated that at any point a motion could be made to change the language of any section and could be followed by a second and discussion and a vote. Attorney Clark concurred. Commissioner Bafundo stated that the transition from the presentations to the actual revision work should occur soon.

Commissioner Briggaman noted Mrs. Cohen's comments during the May 8 meeting in which she spoke about former Town Manager Chapman's survey of the various department heads about what they felt needed to be changed in the Charter and that it had been deemed that a Charter revision process was not necessary at that time and that the items identified in the process could be lived with for the time being. He inquired about the department heads' suggestions and recommended that they be incorporated into future discussion. Mrs. Cohen (present at the meeting as a member of the public) stated that she does have a list of the recommendations and that the Commission has covered the items listed in the recommendations.

## **VIII WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no written communications from the public; however Commissioner Boorman noted that he is still having trouble accessing his Town email account. Commissioner Briggaman stated that he had a problem in the past and had to reset his password. Mayor Wright suggested that Commissioner Boorman contact Paul Boutot for assistance.

## **IX PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Myra Cohen, 42 Jeffrey Lane: Mrs. Cohen inquired as to whom actually writes the purchase orders for the Fire Department, and noted that it is possible that due to the technical nature of some of the Fire Department's apparatus that they may have to write the purchase orders. She stated that she is therefore not sure that the language in the Charter section referenced by Ms. Harter is actually inappropriate. She also commented on section 408, noting that the dollar amount does not actually refer to bonding, it refers to the voting process, whether it be by ordinance or referendum.

Jay Bottalico, 32 Valley View Drive: Mr. Bottalico noted that he had been informed in prior days that the Fire Commissioners and the Fire Chief would come to the next Charter Revision meeting. He asked where that information came from and remarked that he spoke to two Fire Commissioners, neither of whom knew anything about the meeting. Ms. Lane replied that in her notes from the last meeting she thought that there was an indication that the Commission wanted them to appear. She stated that she went ahead and scheduled them, but based on what transpired at the current meeting she will call them back to cancel. Mr. Bottalico thanked Ms. Lane.

## **X COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Boorman pointed out a typo in the quote added to the March 27, 2008 minutes in which the word in the first line of the quote that reads "form" should read "from". (so noted by the Clerk of the Commission)

Mayor Wright commented that he appreciates the Commission's hard work and he is excited that the process will soon be moving forward with changes to the language. He stated that he is looking forward to getting the changes to the people for a vote. He commented that a vast majority of the suggestions and changes seem to have unanimous support and remarked that it is likely that the only major policy decision that the Commission faces has to do with the budget referendum, which the Council charged the Commission to consider. He stated that he anxiously looks forward to seeing more of the Commission's



work and its draft report. He stated that he is looking forward to attending more meetings in the future and being part of the process.

## **XI      ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Boni moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner Boorman. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan  
Clerk – Charter Revision Commission